

Capitol Closeup

# Dodd Goes to CIA's Defense

By CAREY CRONAN

After his criticism of State department policies, especially in the security field, it was a little surprising that Senator Thoma J. Dodd should have arisen to defend the Central Intelligence agency, which has become the whipping boy of many a Congressional orator and the frequent object of attack by party out of power.



As vice chair- CAREY CRONAN man of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, Senator Dodd has been a source of constant annoyance to those who consider the operations of the State department sacrosanct.

It is obvious that the Senator has a deep conviction that there is a hard core of career men in the department who should be ousted or at least divested of some of their powers to clear questionable characters, delay or doctor reports from our envoys abroad, hamper much of what is best for the interests of the nation.

Senator Dodd has not been happy with many of the department's actions or inactions either under the late John Foster Dulles or the present Secretary, Dean Rusk. The recent ousting of two officials who attempted to discipline a security officer, who had cooperated with the Senate committee, is a noteworthy example of the Senator's misgivings and suspicions, although even Secretary Rusk himself has attempted, somewhat, to assuage the injured dignity of the members of the Internal Security subcommittee. But Senator Dodd thinks differently of the CIA and has chided its critics as being irresponsible and speculative, more concerned with headlines than with the security of the U.S.

**ALL THE WAY** — Senator Dodd seldom does things by half-measure. He goes all the way and he thinks many of the rumors and inaccuracies concerning the CIA have been repeated so often they are now accepted in many quarters as gospel truth. He says that many members of Congress attacking without foundation in fact and "baiting the CIA seems to have achieved the stature of a popular national pastime, highly dangerous because the CIA is one of the essential elements of our security."

**DEFENSE IMPOSSIBLE** — The frequent champion of the underdog, Senator Dodd declared that the CIA cannot defend itself because of security reasons and such criticism is "like beating a man who has his arms tied behind his back." He says the CIA cannot confirm or deny reports whether true or not, cannot alibi, or explain or even answer "the most outrageously inaccurate charges."

**TWO PRESIDENTS** — Senator Dodd asserted that claims that the CIA has been running wild without supervision, that it was to blame for the Bay

of Pigs disaster, involved in revolution in Guatemala are attacks on the "wisdom and integrity of both President Eisenhower and President Kennedy, tantamount to accusing them of passively allowing an executive agency to function without control, or supervision and make foreign policy, to usurp the President's own authority."

The Senator said, "This is patently ridiculous." He said he knew the personnel to be top flight men, that Congress had plenty of supervision over the CIA, that picked Senators are informed of any special or unusual CIA activities, and on receipt of significant intelligence.

**MANY RESPONSIBILITIES** — Senator Dodd declared the CIA has many duties broader than the simple gathering of intelligence and that there is "a growing recognition that we cannot compete with communism if we confine ourselves to orthodox diplomacy and orthodox intelligence collection." Maintaining that we must assist the forces of freedom in many places even though some decry this as intervention, Senator Dodd many CIA critics are pacifists "who would rather let the Communists take over the world than fight against them."

He declared that other cri-

tics are "noodle-headed moralists, who might be willing to fight if their own country were threatened by a communist takeover, who are prepared to admit that the communists engage in massive subversive activities of every kind, but who, for some strange reason consider it wrong for the U.S. to do anything about it." He maintained freedom survives in many areas because of CIA action.

**CHASTISES COLLEAGUES** — Not for the first time did the Senator take issue with his colleagues. He urged them to discuss rumors with the CIA before broadcasting them to the world, adding that if public exposure was necessary the place to do it was on the floor of the House or Senate not on some television show or in some sensation-seeking publication. Floor speeches presented the opportunity for debate, questioning, and rebuttal at the same time and place, reflecting all sides of the controversy, Senator Dodd declared, giving equal emphasis in news media as far as the source was concerned. His words will probably bring some replies, and there is no doubt the CIA is pleased, even if the Department of State must feel ignored and possibly circumvented once again.